

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## *APWA KC Metro Chapter Week 5 February 4, 2024*

Related to activity under the dome, the Senate continues to offer a bumpy ride but managed to approve a slate of gubernatorial appointments. On the House side, the chamber debated and passed its first bill of the year (related to education).

This week APWA KC Metro Chapter members travelled to Jefferson City for the Engineers' Day at the Missouri Capitol event. For the second consecutive year, APWA teamed up with ACEC Missouri, ASCE and MSPE or a united representation of engineering interests under the dome.

The January 31 event kicked off the organizations introducing five engineers serving in the Missouri House. Each legislator offered remarks on their

experience serving and noting the importance of our members being represented in the capital city.

The event provided time for members to visit with their own legislators and concluded the event with Governor Mike Parson speaking to attendees. It was a successful event and all four organizations appreciate the members' time to attend.

While the two chambers work to get their footing, bills tracked by APWA start to see movement. Waterways saw

### Key Upcoming Dates:

- March 18-22, 2024 – Legislative Spring Break
- May 17, 2024 – Last day of Legislative Session



*Governor Mike Parson addresses attendees at  
Engineer's Day at the Capitol*

consideration as the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee to discuss HB 2352. The bill makes several changes to the Waterways and Ports Trust Fund including removal of the requirement that funds be withdrawn only for the purposes of transportation grants; requirement that the project be on or adjacent to the navigable rivers of this state; a provision requiring a 20% local match; and, a provision requiring that the project be “selected and approved by the highways and transportation commission, in consultation with the Missouri public ports, to support a statewide plan for waterborne commerce.” The Jefferson County Port Authority, Lewis County Port Authority and Port KC provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee. The committee took no further action on the measure.



*APWA's Kati Horner Gonzalez welcomes attendees at Engineer's Day at the Capitol*

Solid Waste Permits saw discussion as the House Local Government Committee convened to hear HB 1751 and HB 1438. Currently, the Missouri DNR is prohibited from issuing a permit for the operation of a solid waste disposal area designed to serve a city with a population greater than 400,000 inhabitants located in more than one county, if the site is located within one-half mile of an adjoining municipality without its approval. Both bills change the required distances from adjoining municipalities from a half-mile to one mile. The Missouri Municipal League, the Lee's Summit School District Superintendent Dr. David Buck, local mayors including Lee's Summit Mayor Brad Baird, and community advocates provided supporting testimony. The National Waste and Recycling Association testified in opposition to HB 1438. The committee took no action on the measure.

Broadband internet expansion grants were considered by the House Special Committee on Tax Reform with HB 2142. Currently, a taxpayer may deduct from state income tax 100% of any federal grant money received for the purpose of providing or expanding access to broadband internet to areas of the state that lack access. This bill expands the deduction to included state or local grant money and limits the deduction only to money dispersed for this express purpose. The committee took no action on the measure.

The House General Laws Committee to discuss HB 2056, which requires municipalities and the Missouri Department of Transportation to reimburse non-rate regulated utility providers, including telecommunications, Internet, and cable providers, for facility relocation due to road maintenance or construction. Missouri Internet and Television association, Missouri Broadband Providers, Associated Industries of Missouri, AT&T, BrightSpeed, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives provided supporting testimony stating if a utility chooses to move facilities, they should pay the cost. However, if a utility is forced to move facilities because of road maintenance or improvements, MoDOT or the entity responsible for requiring the move should pay the cost of moving the utilities. The Missouri Municipal League provided opposing testimony. The committee took no action on the measure.

Please see below for the new bills of interest.

Respectfully,

Travis Lowe, CAE

**Filed Bills of Interest:** (Below are two links under each category. The first link will show a list of bills filed this week. The second link will take you to your full list of bills and their summaries.)

APWA-General

<https://govwatch.net/report/GLWyGXygoZ>

<https://govwatch.net/report/ZLr96KRqeE>

APWA-Emergency Responders

<https://govwatch.net/report/VgbwG81b9O>

<https://govwatch.net/report/2abBP0wrwv>

APWA-Water

<https://govwatch.net/report/eJWGIOjrog>

<https://govwatch.net/report/ZebQGPBr6X>

APWA-Transportation

<https://govwatch.net/report/OdbeB4vWVY>

<https://govwatch.net/report/59bxGBkqON>

APWA-Workforce Development

<https://govwatch.net/report/g0W45OjrJz>

<https://govwatch.net/report/FeqO4OpbDX>

**Upcoming Hearings of Interest:**

02/05/2024 2:00 PM [Senate-Economic Development and Tax Policy Committee Hearing](#), Senate Lounge  
**Public Hearing (4):**

[SB792](#) Sen. Steven Roberts (D) Establishes the Revitalizing Missouri Downtowns and Main Streets Act

[SB884](#) Sen. Steven Roberts (D) Modifies provisions relating to facilities of historic significance

02/06/2024 11:30 AM [Senate-Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee Hearing](#), Senate Lounge

**Public Hearing (4):**

[SB872](#) Sen. Karla Eslinger (R) Modifies an income tax deduction for certain federal grant money

02/06/2024 12:00 PM [House-Special Committee on Tax Reform Committee Hearing](#), HR 7

MEETING TIME: 12:00 PM or upon adjournment (whichever is later)

**Executive Session (1):**

[HB2142](#) Rep. Ben Baker (R) Modifies provisions relating to an income tax deduction for broadband internet expansion grants